Amateur Computer Scroup of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 38, Number 11 November 2013

ACGNJ Announcements Main Meeting

Friday, November 1st, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM Scheduled Speaker: Barry Burd Scheduled Topic: Google Glass

Window Pains Meeting

Friday, November 15th, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM **Scheduled Speaker**: Brenda Bell **Scheduled Topic**: Internet Sports TV

ACGNJ SIG Reports

Main Meeting Mini-Report

13 members attended last month's Main Meeting on October 4, 2013, starting at 8:00pm. Our topic was Windows 8 App Development, presented by Bob Familiar from Microsoft. For additional information, please see the President's Note on page 3.

Window Pains Mini-Report

11 members attended last month's Window Pains Meeting on October 18, 2013, starting at 8:00pm. Our topic was a Programming Languages Shootout. Bruce Arnold presented C++, David McRitchie presented JavaScript and Firefox, and Mike Redlich presented Java and Groovy. A good time was had by all.



ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org).

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Oct. 29, 7:00 PM Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, November 1. 8:00 PM Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Lunics (**Linux/UNIX**): Monday, Nov. 4, 8:00 PM Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

NJ Gamers: Friday, November 8, **6**:00 PM Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Layman's Forum: Monday, November 11, 8:00 PM Matt Skoda (som359 (at) gmail.com)

Java: Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 PM Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Investing: Thursday, November 14, 8:00 PM Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

Window Pains: Friday, November 15, 8:00 PM John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

Web Browser: Monday, November 18, 7:30 PM David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, November 19, 7:30 PM Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, Dec. 2, 8:00 PM Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Dec. 3, 7:00 PM Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on back page.

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Officers, Directors and Leaders					
President	Mike Redlich	(908) 246-0410	Director Emeritus	Sol Libes	(609) 520-9024
Vice President	Wendy Bell		Through 2013	Gregg McCarthy	
Treasurer	Malthi Masurekar	(732) 560-1534		John Raff	(973) 533-0664
Secretary	Brenda Bell			Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
Past President	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070		(Open)	
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Layman's Forum	Matthew Skoda	(908) 359-8842	Financial	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070
LUNICS	Andreas Meyer		Historian	Lenny Thomas	
Mobile Devices	Brenda Bell		Membership	Bob Hawes	
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Web Browser	David McRitchie		Publicity	Gregg McCarthy	
WebDev	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070	Trenton Computer Fest	Mike Redlich	(908) 246-0410
Window Pains	John Raff	(973) 533-0664	Vendor Liaison	Arnold Milstein	(908) 753-8036
			Webmaster	John Raff	(973) 533-0664

ACGNJ News

Editor Robert D. Hawes bob.hawes@acgnj.org

Editor Emeritus (and Emergency Backup Publisher)

Barbara DeGroot 145 Gun Club Road Palmerton PA 18071 Tel: (570) 606-3596 bdegroot@ptd.net

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. **Always confirm**. Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

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Address Changes should be e-mailed to *membership@acgnj.org* or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at (http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html).

	0 00 /
Bruce Arnold	barnold@ieee.org
Brenda Bell	mobdevsig@acgnj.org
Wendy Bell	ariellechaya@hotmail.com
Jim Cooper	jim@thecoopers.org
Barbara DeGroot	bdegroot@ptd.net
Mark Douches	pcproblems@pobox.com
David Eisen	ultradave@gmail.com
Manuel Goyenechea	Goya@acgnjdotnetsig.org
Bob Hawes	bob.hawes@acgnj.org
Sol Libes	sol@libes.com
Malthi Masurekar	masureka@umdnj.edu
Don McBride	don@mcbride.name
Gregg McCarthy	greggmc@optonline.net
David McRichie	dmcritchie@hotmail.com
Andreas Meyer	lunics@acgnj.org
Arnold Milstein	mrflark@yahoo.com
John Raff	john@jraff.com
Mike Reagan	hardware@acgnj.org
Mike Redlich	mike@redlich.net
Matt Skoda	som359@aol.com
Paul Syers	paul.syers@acgnj.org
Lenny Thomas lenn	nythomas@technologist.com
Scott Vincent	scottvin@optonline.net
Frank Warren	kb4cyc@webwarren.com
Evan Williams tech@	evanwilliamsconsulting.com

President's Note

Michael P. Redlich November 2013 October Main Meeting

On October 4, 2013, we held our October Main Meeting featuring a presentation by Bob Familiar from Microsoft entitled, "Windows 8 App Development." You may be thinking, "so why are you telling me this?" This is, of course, an understandable response, but the remainder of the story involves how we got Bob Familiar to make this presentation.

Back in May, Wendy Bell was able to confirm David Isbitski (http://about.me/davedev/) from Microsoft's office in Malvern, Pennsylvania to make this presentation. Wendy has become our de-facto Microsoft vendor liaison as she knows folks at the Malvern office and the Microsoft Store in the Bridgewater Mall. David was all set to present on October 4 and we were excited to host a Microsoft employee.

During our October Board of Directors meeting on October 1, I was curious if David had an on-line

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we lost the connection with Bob when Bruce Arnold tried to call-in to the presentation remotely. Within a couple of minutes, we were to restore our connection with Bob and Bruce was able to call-in after upgrading to Skype Premium.

I am indeed very grateful for all the behind-thescenes effort that went into making this presentation possible. I formally acknowledge Wendy Bell, abstract for his upcoming presentation. I found David's blog and, to my horror, I saw a blog post from mid-September that read, "This is my last day at Microsoft." Now, I can't publish the words that originally came out of my mouth, but all of us were very surprised as to why David never said anything to us. After all, he was confirmed to represent Microsoft and we didn't think he'd be coming out to Scotch Plains since his departure.

David responded almost immediately to Wendy's email and he provided the name of someone at the Malvern office, Lindsay Lindstrom, who worked a miracle in securing Bob Familiar to make a presentation. The only down side was that it was too short notice to have Bob visit us in-person. We made arrangements to have the presentation made through through Skype.

On the night of the presentation, everything worked fairly well. There was only one small glitch where

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Lindsay Lindstrom, and Bob Familiar and I can't thank them enough for everything they did to make this happen.

In the past, whenever something like this happens, we usually gather for a "Random Access" session. It's nice to know that we didn't have to do that this time

Michael P. Redlich

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (October 10th)

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

We had a really good meeting on Thursday, 10/10/2013. Even though we only had 12 attendees, there was a *lot* of constructive interaction on the topics discussed, which is fantastic - That is encouraged and welcomed!

Jim Cooper started with a presentation and discussion on the very popular PINBALL system with its setup, triggers, stops and targets (exits), which Jim discussed openly and included the candidates on his daily PINBALL blog. EVERY

member needs to sign up for this, Jim does a great job with it and it is FREE - SIGN UP! There were a lot of questions about the specific details of the system, which Jim fully discloses on the PINBALL blog.

Larry Yu's presentation was next of the portfoliomanagement that he has been using testing and developing over the summer. It has produced *very* impressive trading results with a ~25% month-tomonth return on risk, which was actually a ~7k-10k

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (October 10th), continued

monthly "income" on the trades. For full disclosure, although Larry does trade his real money in another account, this portfolio test was conducted in a papermoney account and was *very* impressive. Everybody in the group wanted to know more specifics on exactly how Larry did it (traders!), which he openly discussed. It was a great

presentation that everybody enjoyed, even the pizza break in the middle. The meeting ran late because of the many questions and interactions bout Larry's impressive income-trading system.

Please attend the meetings, everybody learns from them. We hope to see you at November's meeting, 11/14/2013. Thank you. Philip Lees ■

Apps for Windows 8: What can they do for me?

Phil Sorrentino, Past President Sarasota PC Users Group, FL Newsletter: PC Monitor (www.spcug.org) philsorr (at) yahoo.com

Apps are what make Mobile devices -tablets and phones- so useful. So, what Apps should I have on my mobile device? Well, Microsoft has provided a starter set of Apps, at least for its tablets and laptops, as part of Windows 8. It is a basic set that allows a (new) user to immediately start taking advantage of their mobile device. Most of these Apps are general in nature, but other Apps, more specific to a task, are available (mostly for free) at the Microsoft Apps

store. All of the Apps that you have heard of are there for the taking (downloading): Skype, Netflix, Angry Birds, SugarSync, etc.

Here is the collection of Apps that come with Windows 8, in a list prioritized by my particular feeling of usefulness. The first three may be all you will ever use.

1. **Desktop** - This tile, or App, gets you to Windows, as you knew it. All of the Windows 7 capabilities

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(with the exception of the old "Start" button) that you are comfortable with are here. If this is all you're looking for, click here and never come back.

- 2. **Internet Explorer** A portal to the Internet, though the User Interface is a little different than you are used to. But, if all you want to do is surf the web, this can get the job done.
- 3. **Store** This App connects you to the Microsoft Store where you can download all the Apps (and some other software programs) that can run on Windows 8.

The next few Apps are certainly useful, but you might find other Apps at the "Store" to satisfy your particular needs.

- 4. **Calendar** A very simple calendar App to help you schedule and keep track of events.
- 5. **Maps** A great way to view your surrounding geography. Input an address or point of interest and see it plotted on a map, with turn-by-turn directions, if needed.
- 6. **SkyDrive** An App that connects you to Microsoft's portion of the "cloud." It provides 7GB

- of free on-line storage. It can be a central location for files you want to access from any of your computers and/or a good place to backup your important files. It can also be used to allow you to share big files with others.
- 7. **Mail** A very basic Mail App that allows you to send and read your mail.
- 8. **Messaging** An App that allows you to chat with your friends. If your friends use a different chat network, you'll probably want to download an App specifically for that network.
- 9. **Photos** An App that helps organize and view all of your pictures. It collects and organizes pictures from folders and from the on-board camera.
- 10. **Music** An App that lets you collect, organize, and listen to your favorite music. Music will also let you stream music for free. It also lets you get to Microsoft's new "Xbox Music" service. ("Xbox", seemingly, has nothing to do with the Xbox gaming system.)
- 11. **Video** This App helps organize, and allows you to view, all your videos. It also provides an entrance

Apps for Windows 8: What can they do for me? continued

to Microsoft's TV and movie stores.

- 12. **Bing** Microsoft's search capability. Try to "Bing" something; if it's out there, Bing can find it. "Bing it on."
- 13. **People** An App that provides a centralized Address Book for all of your cyber social acquaintances. A centralized place to keep all those email addresses, mailing addresses, social media names, phone numbers, and pictures.
- 14. **Weather** This App provides a color weather map, including a five-day or hour-by-hour forecast for your location or a location of your choosing.
- 15. **Finance** A "Finance News" App that includes stock market activity and financial news that can be customized to your own portfolio.
- 16. **News** A News App that includes Sports, Finance, and Travel. This App combines articles from many websites like The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. It scrolls horizontally and feels much like a newspaper.
- 17. **Sports** A Sports magazine App that includes sports articles from many news sources.

- 18. **Travel** A Travel magazine App. Travel articles from many news sources and pictures of Featured Destinations.
- 19. **Games** An App that connects you to Microsoft's "Xbox Games on Windows" store.
- 20. **Camera** An App to control the onboard camera. Good for video chats and creating photos for sharing.

The 20 Apps that are included can give a new Windows user a good idea of what Apps are, what they can accomplish, and how to basically control them. Smartphone and tablet users are probably more familiar with the whole App concept. Once you are familiar with the idea of Apps, you will probably want to go to the Microsoft App Store and get (install) Apps that might help you take advantage of your mobile device. When you get to the App store you will find that there are many categories and there are many Apps in each of those categories. Because computer software (read that as Desktop) has been around for almost 30 years, there are established standards like Microsoft Office for

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Office applications, Adobe Photoshop for photo

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activities, Acronis for backup, and Adobe for PDF readers. The world of Apps is very new and standards are only now being established. So, it is hard to put together a list of App standards, but from my recent experience let me leave you with a short list of some very good, free Apps to add to your collection. You might want to give some of them a

collection. You might want to give some of them a try. To get to these Apps, click on the "Store" App on the start screen and you will be greeted by a display of Available Apps. Websites change, frequently, so things might be a little different by the time you read this, but currently, there are suggestions for "Top Paid", "Top Free", and "New Releases". Click on the category of your choice (Games, Entertainment, Photo, Sports, etc.) and see the available Apps.

A click on "Spotlight-Top Free" yields a list of the Spotlighted top 100 free Apps. In the list you will find:

Skype- for video chatting

YouTube player- for watching YouTube videos

Netflix- for Movie streaming (if you have an

account)

Yahoo Mail- for Yahoo mail accounts

CNN- for news and weather

Google Search - if you prefer Google to Bing

Microsoft Solitaire Collection- for Solitaire enthusiasts.

In addition to the Apps that are included in the major categories, you can also search for a particular App. This is done using the Search feature that is part of the Charms bar. To get to the Charms bar, click in the lower right corner of the screen. Search is the top icon, the one that looks like the magnifying glass. Click on it, and then type in the name of the App you are looking for. This will result in a search of the "Store" Apps. When, or if, you see the App listed, click on it and it will be available for installation. You might want to try the following Apps:

Evernote- for note taking

IMDB- for movie and TV information

Dropbox- for an additional storage location in the cloud

Microsoft's Store is a lot newer than the Google

Apps for Windows 8: What can they do for me? continued

Playstore (Android) or the Apple iTunes store (iOS). If you are familiar with an App from either of those stores, you may find that that App is not available at the Microsoft store, yet. Check back in the future, it might be available then. Microsoft's App developers have had less time to create versions that work on the Windows 8 platform, but I'm sure they are working on them.

As you can see, Apps cover a lot of territory and can

help you accomplish many things, from simple note taking to video chatting, and video entertainment. Apps turn your computer into all the things you expect from a modern digital programmable computer- your home PC.

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Interesting Internet Finds

Steve Costello, President / Editor, Boca Raton Computer Society, FL Newsletter: Boca Bits (http://ctublog.sefcug.com/) editor (at) brcs.org

In the course of going through the more than 200 RSS feeds, I often run across things that I think might be of interest to other user group members.

The following are some items I recently found interesting.

Sandboxes Explained: How They're Already Protecting You and How to Sandbox Any Program

http://www.howtogeek.com/169139/sandboxes-explained-how-theyre-already-protecting-you-and-how-to-sandbox-any-program/

Print Files Remotely in Windows with Google Cloud Print

http://www.maketecheasier.com/print-files-remotely-in-windows-with-google-cloud-print/2013/07/31

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Don't Get "Smished": How Scammers are Targeting Your Smartphone

http://www.dailybits.com/sms-phishing/

How to install a fully portable desktop on a USB for on-the-go access

http://www.techrepublic.com/blog/linux-and-opensource/how-to-install-a-fully-portable-desktop-on-a-usbfor-on-the-go-access/

How To Use Skype to Share Your Computer Screen http://www.groovypost.com/howto/skype-share-computerscreen/

Ultimate Windows 8 Wi-Fi Troubleshooting Guide http://www.online-tech-tips.com/windows-8/ultimate-windows-8-wifi-troubleshooting-guide/

Stop Android 4.3 from always scanning for Wi-Fi networks

http://howto.cnet.com/8301-11310_39-57596807-285/stop-android-4.3-from-always-scanning-for-wi-fi-networks/

How to Return a Lost Phone in Four Easy Steps http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/how-you-can-returnsomeones-lost-phone-by-thinking-like-a-thief/ How to Fix Annoying Multi-Page Articles All Over the Web

http://lifehacker.com/how-to-fix-annoying-multi-page-articles-all-over-the-we-1164869508

Most Fridays, more interesting finds will be posted on the Computers, Technology, and User Groups Blog, under Creative Commons licensing.

Recent posts:

http://ctublog.sefcug.com/interesting-internet-finds-august-23-2013/

http://ctublog.sefcug.com/interesting-internet-finds-we-august-16-2013/

http://ctublog.sefcug.com/interesting-internet-finds-we-august-9-2013/

http://ctublog.sefcug.com/interesting-internet-finds-we-august-2-2013/

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Thanks For "Why So Big?"

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

As I write this, Bob Hope's famous theme song is playing in my head. Except he's *not* singing *Thanks For The Memories*, he's singing *Thanks For The "Why So Big?"*. I've had articles published in our newsletter since May of 2005. Most years, I've put some kind of silly/spooky Halloween reference in my October titles; and I've often put some kind of Holiday reference in my December titles, but not so much for November. True, I used *Turkey with Gremlins* in November of 2008; but that was just as much a leftover Halloween reference as it was a Thanksgiving reference. This time, at least, I've got the word "Thanks" in my title; but that's about it. Otherwise, this article is concerned with wrapping up my *ten* part "bigness" saga.

Further below, this article *does* contain some new technical content; but to begin, I'm going to summarize all of the saga's previous articles, and list all of my conclusions in this one place. Note that this is only an abbreviated overview. If you want *details*, please read the *nine* preceding articles. The initial

impetus for this whole series came from the undeniable fact that our original October (6.3 MB), November (5.9 MB) and December (4.8 MB) 2012 newsletters (done on a Vista laptop) came out *SO* much bigger than anything that I'd made under Linux. First, though, here are modified versions of some recap paragraphs that I've used before:

Scribus is my fun, fabulous, and *free* desktop publisher. It has versions that run under various operating systems, including Linux and Windows. Its newer 1.4.x releases are !!!NOT!!! backwards compatible with its earlier 1.3.x releases. For reasons that will soon become obvious, it's *important* to repeatedly emphasize that our October, November and December 2012 newsletters were created while I was in the hospital, using a borrowed laptop computer running the Windows Vista version of Scribus 1.4.1.

GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) files were introduced by CompuServe in the mid eighties. They're *compact*, and they use lossless data

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compression; but they support only 256 colors. Unfortunately, some transcendent genius at Scribus has decreed that you'll get useless, intrusive and distracting "Image is GIF" error messages any time that you use them.

JPG (or JPEG, for **J**oint **P**hotographic **E**xperts **G**roup) files were introduced by the ISO (**I**nternational **S**tandards **O**rganization), also in the mid eighties. They're *very* popular for digital photography, even though (or maybe *because*) they use lossy compression.

TIF (or TIFF, for Tagged Image File Format) files were introduced in the mid eighties as well, by the Aldus Corporation. Originally created for desktop scanners, they were quickly adopted by the publishing industry in general. They support lossless *or* lossy compression, as desired.

PNG (Portable Network Graphics) files employ lossless data compression. Their specification was originally authored via e-mail in the mid *nineties*, by a group of computer graphics users who were dissatisfied with GIF files for various reasons. In

How... Big... Was It? (in our August 20<u>11</u> issue), I developed the working theory that as far as Scribus was concerned, images (rather than text) were mainly responsible for PDF file sizes. Up to the start of this saga, I'd turned up nothing that would have tended to refute that theory. Now for some summaries of our individual "chapters":

The first article (Why So Big? in our December 2012 issue) took up 5 ½ pages, and was 4,283 words long. It took me roughly half of that length to supply all the background information needed to set up the article. In the remaining half, I de-constructed the work file for our November 2012 newsletter, deleting each image in turn, and noting the size differences for its output PDF files each time. (I'd originally intended to do both the October and November issues; but the article grew too big, so I put off October until the next time). Near the end, I advanced two preliminary conclusions: "Using PNG images leads to bloated PDF files", and "Using GIF images leads to annoying and useless error messages".

Son of "Why So Big?" (in our January 2013 issue)

took up 6 pages, and was 4,396 words long. In it, for starters, I described some experiments I did with "empty" Scribus work files (containing twenty pages of linked text frames, but containing <u>no</u> text or images). First, out of curiosity, I exported a PDF of my "empty" work file, and I got an output file measuring 1,044 KB (1.02 <u>MB</u>). I was stunned; but remember, this was done using Scribus 1.4.1 running under Windows Vista. Now, only about *ten* months later, I've repeated that experiment under Linux:

For the Ubuntu 12.04/Scribus 1.4.0 combination, I got an output PDF measuring 455.9 KB; and for the Ubuntu 11.04/Scribus 1.3.3.13 combination, I got an output PDF measuring 428.5 KB. My interpretation of these results is that there *is*, indeed, a small increase in "overhead" when going from Scribus 1.3.x to 1.4.x; but most of the size of each of my output files comes from actual content. (Apparently, the "framework" of those "empty" work files takes up a lot more space than I thought it would); but why is the Vista/Scribus 1.4.1 result more than *twice* as big? That's because, in my opinion, Vista is evil!

Evil, Evil, EVIL!!!

Well, that was fun. Now let's get back to *Son of* "Why So Big?". The rest of my preliminary experiments there involved adding four relatively small image files to my "empty" work file, and then deleting them again in a slightly different order, while recording all of the output PDF size changes along the way. I did this three times, for the same four files converted to three different file formats: JPG, PNG and TIF. My results surprised me. All of the PDF size changes for my PNG and TIF files came out *exactly* equal, while all of my PDF size changes for the JPG files came out *smaller*. (This was the first indication I got that JPG images might be the way to go).

Most of the rest of *Son of "Why So Big?"* paralleled *Why So Big?* by *de*-constructing our October 2012 issue. After all of its images had been deleted, I wound up with a final output PDF measuring 1,893 KB. Comparing it to November's final output size of 2,008 KB, I commented that "*Both* are *way* too bloated". After that, I decided to re-examine the

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thirteen JPG files that I'd previously processed, and "dig deeper into the relationship between Scribus and JPEG files" by recalculating those figures down to the byte level. I found them to be "Remarkably close". The final 1 ¼ pages were taken up by one of my wacky appendices. We **won't** be summarizing such silliness here.

Daughter of "Why So Big?" (in our February 2013 issue) took up 3 ¼ pages, and was 2,523 words long. Near its start (after some opening remarks), I restated my preliminary conclusions, which had now expanded to four: "using GIF images leads to annoying and useless error messages", "using PNG images leads to bloated PDF files", "using TIF images leads to the same bloated PDF files as PNG images", and "when using JPG images, the increase (or decrease) in output PDF file size always seems to be only 300 bytes or so greater than the actual size of the source image file".

After that, I paralleled *Why So Big?* and *Son of* "*Why So Big?*" by *de*-constructing our December 2012 issue. After all of its images had been deleted, I

wound up with a final output PDF measuring 1.0 MB (actually 1,001.8 KB). That's roughly *half* of the sizes for October and November. However, this article was written *after* the Vista laptop's sudden (and *very* thorough) crash, so *all* of those latest deletions had been performed under Linux. I noted that "Further investigation will be required", but I concluded by saying: For now, though, it certainly looks like the answer to the question "Why So Big?" could well be "because I was foolish enough to do my work on a Vista computer".

After that, I took a two month break from the "bigness" saga, publishing *Purloined Letters* (about *serious* technical flaws in our October, November and December 2012 newsletters) in our March 2013 issue; and *Revenge of the 13 Things* (about my then-latest adventures with the Ubuntu Linux operating system) in our April 2013 issue.

Niece of "Why So Big?" (in our May 2013 issue) took up 3 ½ pages, and was 2,553 words long. In it, I re-constructed our December 2012 issue, but only after converting all of its images into the JPG file

format. I got a final PDF size of 3.0 MB. I also mentioned a few other changes I made that didn't really have anything to do with "bigness". First, the footers on pages 2 through 16 mistakenly said "March 2012" instead of "December 2012". I fixed that. I also described several changes I made to December's page 1, to make it clear that this was a replacement issue. Unfortunately, I just flat out *forgot* to make it clear that when I produced that issue using Linux instead of Vista, *all* of December's "serious technical flaws" just *went away*. (As mentioned above, to find out exactly what those flaws actually were, see *Purloined Letters* in our March 2013 issue).

Next, I noted that the Vista Laptop/Scribus 1.4.1 combination originally produced a 4.8 MB PDF for December (and remember, it was flawed). Then, I loaded that exact same December work file (unedited in any way) into the Linux/Scribus 1.4.0 combination, and immediately exported another PDF. It came out as a 3.7 MB file. That's a 1.1 MB decrease in size, just for NOT using Vista. (I called

this the "Vista Penalty"). After that, I looked at my latest "final" PDF size of 3.0 MB (listed above). That's a further decrease of 0.7 MB, just for switching all of December's images to the JPG format. (I called this the "JPG Reward").

I finished up Niece of "Why So Big?" by loading each of the original work files for October and November (again, unedited in any way) into the Linux/Scribus 1.4.0 combination, and immediately exporting new PDFs. Then, to save time, I only replaced the three *largest* PNG images in those two work files with their JPG counterparts. For October, I got another "Vista Penalty" of 1.1 MB and a "JPG Reward" of 0.65 MB. For November, I got a similar "Vista Penalty" of 1.0 MB and a duplicate "JPG Reward" of 0.65 MB. (As anticipated, I got the exact same "JPG Reward" by changing only the exact same three images). I concluded by saying that it now seems pretty obvious that the question "Why So Big?" has at least two answers: "I was so foolish as to do my work on a Vista computer", and "I used some of the wrong image file formats".

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Nephew of "Why So Big?" (in our June 2013 issue) took up 3 ½ pages, and was 2,488 words long. In it, I de-constructed our January 2012 newsletter twice. the Ubuntu 12.04/Scribus Once using 1.4.0 combination, and once using the Ubuntu 11.04/Scribus 1.3.3.13 combination, The January issue had been "under construction" and not properly backed up (shame on me) when the Vista laptop crashed. So it had to be re-created from scratch on my Linux home computer, using the Ubuntu 11.04/Scribus 1.3.3.13 combination, Thus, since the existing version of our January newsletter had never been touched by Vista, I didn't have to worry about those "serious technical flaws" or that "Vista Penalty" ever again.

Using 1.4.0 first. I opened a copy of the original January work file, and immediately exported a PDF. It measured 3.2 MB. Then I deleted all its images and exported another PDF. It measured 1.1 MB. Switching to 1.3.3.13 and another *un*touched copy of the January work file, I again immediately exported a PDF. It measured 2.2 MB. Then I deleted all its

images and exported another "empty" PDF that also measured 1.1 MB. Befuddled but game, I soldiered on.

Sticking with 1.3.3.13, I re-added JPG versions of all the images that I'd just deleted. and then exported another PDF. It measured 2.2 MB, Opening yet another copy of the "empty" work file, I re-added all the images again, this time using TIF versions. Again, my resultant PDF measured 2.2 MB. Dazed and confused (because I *hadn't* expected my results to be the same), I "bailed out", putting off all further actions until the next article.

Aunt of "Why So Big?" (in our July 2013 issue) took up 2 ³/₄ pages, and was 2,149 words long. In it, I continued *re*-constructing various copies of our January newsletter. When I'd abruptly terminated *Nephew of "Why So Big?"*, there were four "empty" copies of January's work file still to be processed. (Each contained every single bit of January's text, but *none* of its images). Their names were 2013Jan7-34J.sla, 2013Jan7-34T.sla, 2013Jan7-44J.sla and 2013Jan7-44T.sla.

The 34 signified a "hybrid" version: already *de*-constructed by 1.3.3.13, and soon to be *re*-constructed by 1.4.0, while 44 meant a "pure" version: already *de*-constructed by 1.4.0, and soon to be *re*-constructed by 1.4.0 as well. The J meant that I'd be adding only JPG images, and the T meant only TIF images. (While I fully expected my "hybrid" and "pure" results to come out the same for each of my two image file formats, I felt that I should test this hypothesis at least once, just to be sure).

So, I first reminded everyone that in *Nephew*, when 1.3.3.13 and 1.4.0 had their first head to head comparison (using exactly identical copies of the original January work file, containing both PNG and GIF images), a PDF made by Scribus 1.4.0 measured 3.2 MB, while a PDF made by Scribus 1.3.3.13 measured 2.2 MB. (See four paragraphs above). Then (using 1.4.0), I opened the "hybrid" JPG work file, added all of its images, and got a final output PDF file of 2.2 MB. Next, I opened the "hybrid" TIF work file, added all of its images, and got a final output PDF file of 3.2 MB. After that, I processed

the "pure" JPG work file, and got a final output PDF file of 2.2 MB. Finally (still using 1.4.0), I processed the "pure" TIF work file, and got a final output PDF file of 3.2 MB.

I noted that, as far as our January 2013 newsletter was concerned, we got 2.2 MB results for any and all image file combinations when using Scribus 1.3.3.13; but when using Scribus 1.4.0, we got 2.2 MB results *only* for JPG files. (Apparently, 1.4.0 and 1.3.3.13 process various image file formats differently). I concluded by saying; "So it's obvious. To get the smallest possible output PDFs (*whichever* version of Scribus we use), *JPG* images are the only way to go".

Uncle of "Why So Big?" (in our August 2013 issue) took up 3 ½ pages, and was 2,498 words long. In it, I wrote that, every three months, I create a new "working directory" for our newsletter. I described how (in mid June of 2013) I created a new JULSEP13 directory, and how I created Starters, its first subdirectory. Then, I mentioned several files that I copied into Starters, including my special size-

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measuring work file and a copy of my "skeleton" work file (which contained 14 GIF images and 3 PNG images).

Next, I opened that still *untouched* "skeleton" file under my two different versions of Scribus, and immediately created a PDF file for each. The PDF made by the Ubuntu 11.04/Scribus 1.3.3.13 combination measured 1.9 MB, while the PDF made by the Ubuntu 12.04/Scribus 1.4.0 combination measured 2.6 MB, I called their 0.7 MB difference the "Upgrade 4 Penalty". After that, I *de*-constructed my "skeleton" (using Scribus 1.3.3.13) by deleting *all* of its images. and then I *re*-constructed it again, by adding *only* JPG versions of those images.

Between those deletion and addition procedures, though, I also took some other actions. Under Scribus 1.3.3.13, I exported a PDF of the then imageless version of my "skeleton", and it measured only 797.9 **K**B. Then, I exported a PDF of that same image-less "skeleton" under Scribus 1.4.0. It measured 799.5 KB, for an "Upgrade 4 Penalty" of only 1.6 KB (actually 1,625 *bytes*). So even

discounting images, there's still a small difference in the way Scribus 1.4.0 processes its work files. It's not much when compared to the 677 **K**B Penalty for the "full" versions above, but it exists.

Note: When it was ready for its first use, JULSEP13 contained only 19 files measuring 3.4 MB. At that time, its predecessor (APRJUN13) contained 122 files measuring 144.5 MB, Last year's JULSEP12 directory contained 96 files measuring 36.1 MB, the OCTDEC12 directory contained 225 files measuring 291,7 MB, and the JANMAR13 directory contained 222 files measuring 213.8 MB. *Now*, as I write this, it's early September of 2013, and my newly created OCTDEC13 directory contains only 19 files measuring 3.4 MB. On the other hand, JULSEP13 (after having produced our July, August, and September issues) now contains 124 files measuring 73.2 MB.

Finally, I wrapped up *Uncle* by briefly mentioned the Sources subdirectory, where I keep all of my "foreign imports" (articles written by other people). At that time, it contained 24 files measuring 23 MB.

Then, I was done.

Cousin of "Why So Big?" (in our September 2013 issue) took up 4 pages, and was 3,028 words long. In it, I jumped back to unfinished business from Niece of "Why So Big?", describing the "snags" I'd previously encountered when working on our October and November 2012 newsletters, and the actions that I took to fix said snags. After that, I described the final stages of de-construction and reconstruction for those two issues:

October had 3 additional PNG images and 18 GIF images to be replaced with JPG images. Doing that raised its "JPG Reward" from 0.65 MB to 0.9 MB. November had <u>16</u> additional PNG images and 19 GIF images to be replaced with JPG images. Doing that raised *its* "JPG Reward" from 0.65 MB to <u>1.5</u> MB. (Replacing those GIF files had hardly any impact. It was those PNG files that made all the difference). Plus, I described how I'd edited page 1 of each issue, to emphasize that these were, indeed, "Replacement" newsletters.

Then, I repeated that the three newsletters which launched this whole humongous saga were *not* "So Big" any more. October had gone from 6.3 MB to 4.3 MB, November shrank from 5.9 MB to 3.4 MB, and December shrank from 4.8 MB to 3.0 MB. Furthermore, they now *weren't* flawed, almost certainly because I *hadn't* used Vista while rebuilding *any* of them.

Next, I described an incompatibility between different versions of Scribus that unexpectedly came up when I used Ubuntu 12.04/Scribus 1.4.0 to access a second copy of my new "skeleton" work file (created above under Ubuntu 11.04/Scribus 1.3.3.13). I got two "Text overflow" error messages, and *five* areas of excessive white space on pages 13 and 14. After fixing all seven problems, I could safely save that file using Scribus 1.4.0. Thus, I had the *two* "skeleton" work files that I wanted. One for 1.3.3.13 and one for 1.4.0.

Finally, I recycled about half of my closing paragraph from *Niece of "Why So Big?"*: It now seems pretty obvious that the question "Why So

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Big?" has two answers: "I was so foolish as to do my work on a Vista computer", and "I used some of the wrong image file formats". For the future, I plan to convert all of my PNG images to JPG (to save space); and all of my GIF images, as well. (Not so much to save space as to get rid of those misbegotten "Image is GIF" error messages). One last thought: Hopefully, I'll <u>never</u> have to go anywhere near Vista again.

The Ghost of "Why So Big?" (in our October 2013 issue) took up 4 ¾ pages, and was 2,534 words long. In it, I followed up on a brief reference to the Sources subdirectory that I made in *Uncle of "Why So Big?"*. As I mentioned above, Sources is where I keep all of my "foreign imports" (articles written by other people). In Sources, there's a file named 1208FIMP.odt, in which I previously kept track of said "foreign imports". (From the numbers in its name, you can tell that it was last updated in August of 2012, just about a year ago now). Thus, it's been so badly neglected that I decided to keep it as it is (for reference); and to make a completely new

"tracking" file from scratch, using Linux/UNIX based techniques.

This involved copying lists of the contents of eleven ZIP archives into a newly created file named 1307ZIPS.odt. In brief, here's how I did it: One at a time, I extracted the contents of each ZIP file into a previously prepared temporary directory. Then, I opened a Terminal window and typed in the ls -1 command. (That's "dash one", **not** "dash lower case L"). That command displayed a single column list of the names of each file that I'd just extracted into that directory. Now, here's the magic part. The Linux Terminal window has a **very nice** feature: It's **mouse-aware**. I could use my mouse cursor to highlight that list of files, and then I could use a word processing program to copy that list directly into my new file.

Once I'd done this eleven times, it was a tedious but relatively straightforward task to identify and mark the files that had already been used; and here's the kicker: 1307ZIPS.odt is only six pages long, while 1208FIMP.odt is eleven pages long. That's because my old tracking file contains *a lot* of extraneous

verbiage. While no doubt interesting under some circumstances, this additional information just *isn't* needed for its assigned task. On the other hand, 1307ZIPS.odt contains *only* what it needs; and look: I've just compared the sizes of two files. Plus, I even answered the question "Why So Big?" for this particular case. How's that for an appropriate tie-in to the rest of the "bigness" saga?

The final page of *Ghost* was taken up by another of my wacky appendices. As I said above; "We *won't* be summarizing such silliness here". However, this one involves the classic Warner Brothers cartoons. (Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck. etc.) If you're a fan of these cartoons, I highly recommend that you download a copy of our October 2013 newsletter from the ACGNJ website, go to the end of *The Ghost of "Why So Big?"*, and read this appendix. I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

Thanks for "Why So Big?" (this article) takes up 5 ³/₄ pages, and is 4,367 words long. In it, I summarized all nine of the saga's previous articles. With each summary, I listed the word and page counts for each

article (including this one). Then, I calculated the following totals for the entire saga: 30,819 words in 42 ½ pages. Even when you consider that at least 200 words every month were recap (more likely 500 to 1000 words if you include each article's introduction and setup remarks), that's still *mighty big*.

Now, to add more technical content to this last "chapter", I've decided to further investigate the "Upgrade 4 Penalty" by using Scribus 1.4.0 to create a second set of PDFs for our February through September issues, and to compare them to our already existing newsletters (made by Scribus 1.3.3.13). When making the extra February PDF (from the *untouched* original February work file), I got 14 of those annoying, useless and *very* distracting "Image Is GIF" error messages, 5 of those useless (to me, anyway) "Image resolution below 144 DPI" error messages, and 4 of those *VITALLY IMPORTANT* "Text overflow" error messages. (For me, the only thing those first two types of messages do is to *hide* those third messages.

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Not, in my opinion, a very smart thing for Scribus to do).

When compared to our original February newsletter, my new 1.4.0 copy gave me an "Upgrade 4 Penalty" of 0.6 MB (actually 645.3 **K**B). I got similar error messages (though mostly not as many) for the other seven newsletters, but I'm not going to list them here. Just the results: 0.9 MB (actually 970.8 **K**B) for March, 0.9 MB again (actually 857.3 **K**B this time) for April, **0** MB (actually -44.5 **K**B, or -45,616 **bytes**) for May, **0** MB (actually 1.05 **K**B, or 1,076 **bytes**) for June, **0** MB (actually -40.1 **K**B, or -41,085 **bytes**) for July, **0** MB (actually 121.6 **K**B, or 12,4510 **bytes**) for August, and **0** MB (actually -41.2 **K**B, or -42,167 **bytes**) for September.

If you assumed that the θ MB results for the last five months came about because I'd adopted my current *JPG only* image policy starting with our May 2013 issue, you'd be right; and if you guessed that the three *negative* sets of KB/byte results above meant that the PDFs for the May, July and September issues produced by 1.4.0 came out *smaller* than the

original issues created by 1.3.3.13, well then you'd be right, too. (Should they be called "Upgrade 4 Rewards" instead?) With what I know now, anyway, it looks like, if I have to make a full time switch to 1.4.0 someday, it **won't** be "the end of the world".

Finally, I went back to my "Vista Penalty" and "JPG Reward" figures for our October, November and December 2012 newsletters. I added up the three Penalties and the three Rewards, and then calculated aggregate percentages for each. The close results surprised me, but (after double and triple checking my figures) I used them to restate my conclusion: It now seems pretty obvious that the answer to the question "Why So Big?" is: 51% because I was so foolish as to do my work on a Vista computer, and 49% because I did <u>NOT</u> use only JPG images.

I'll finish up by remarking; "Well, my 'Why So Big?' saga took a **LONG** time to write, and exactly a year to publish. As my personal Magnum Opus, it ought to hold the record for quite a while". Anyway:

See you next month.

SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM).

Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August.

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@gmail.com) http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August.

Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in he back room, most of our time was spent in talking about ast experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM).

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)

http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM).

Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on currentgeneration cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM).

WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompasing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM).

Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM).

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

http://www.NJGamers.com

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair!

Web Browser (Formerly Firefox)

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM).

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org) http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). *No* meetings in July or August.

Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)
http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July or August.

37th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



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Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September.

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Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

Software				
HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410		
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385		
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385		
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681		
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385		
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410		
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898		
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410		
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410		
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070		
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681		
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410		
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681		
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681		
	Operating Systems			
Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942		



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2 Years	\$40				
3 Years	\$55				\$45
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AMATEUR	COMPUTER GROU	JP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., I	Address Chang	eF	22470-13

Other Local Computer Groups			
Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, www.pmug-nj.org	Linux Users Group in Princeton: 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ http://www.lugip.org	New York PC: 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, http://www.nypc.org	
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. www.cesop.org/	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. www.bcug.com	NJ Macintosh User Group: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org.	
PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org, (908) 995-4042.	NY Amateur Computer Group: 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. http://www.nyacc.org	
Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. http://www.morrismicro.com	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC User Group: 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, www.njpcug.org	
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. www.pacsnet.org	NJ Computer Club: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. http://www.njcc.org	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org	

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptd.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.

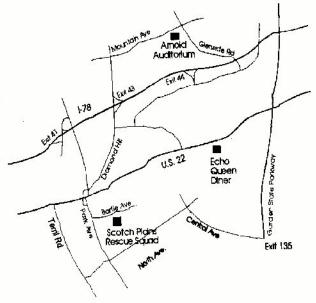
Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Review, Software Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to The Association of 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia.



Member of Personal Computer User Groups 1-800-876-WPEN http://www.apcug.net

Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district.Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building - you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building.